REMARKS

In ¶¶ 3 and 4 of the office action, claims 1-5, 8-13, and 30-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112 respectively because apparatus claims 1 and 30 recite method steps. In response to these grounds for rejection, claims 1 and 30 have been amended to recite means instead of steps.

In ¶ 5 of the action, claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11-13, 30-32, and 34-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,269,379 to Hiyama *et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,694,434 to McGee *et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,191,611 to Lang and U.S. Patent No. 5,319,776 to Hile *et al.* The Applicant traverses this ground for rejection for the following reasons.

Amended claim 1 recites "means for decrypting said encrypted data in said registry file and means for searching said decrypted data for an entry matching the identifier received from said operating system identifying a starting process of said application program to be executed by said operating system." Amended claim 30 includes the same limitation.

The office action cites McGee as teaching registry information that is digitally signed using a private key and then authenticated (i.e., decrypted) using a public key. However, this feature in McGee is different than Applicant's claimed registry. The Applicant's invention includes "a

registry file containing encrypted data representing a list of all processes that are approved by the system manufacturer or service provider to run on the imaging system". This registry does not contain encrypted data that is specific to a particular user, but rather contains encrypted data for processes "approved by the system manufacturer or service provider" regardless of who the user is. In other words, all that matters is whether the process is approved, not whether the user of the process is approved. If, as proposed by McGee, the system were to be capable of allowing a user to digitally sign the application registration data using a private signing key, the system would then need to decrypt that data using "the user's public signing key" [see column 5, lines 10-12). That "user's" public signing key is specific to the user. Public keys are often stored on public key servers. Each user would have his own public signing key stored in the public key server or registry, if you will. This is clearly different from Applicant's invention, wherein the process to be executed is compared to data obtained by decrypting encrypted data stored in a registry, that encrypted data representing approved processes. Unlike McGee, Applicant's invention does not require the use of encrypted data that identifies the user. Instead the invention authenticates the requested process to be executed using encrypted data that identifies approved processes. In view of this important distinction, the Applicant's respectfully submit that the rejection based on McGee is mistaken and should be withdrawn.

Nor does the Lang patent disclose the key features that are missing from McGee. In particular, Lang does not disclose the use of a registry containing encrypted data representing processes approved for execution on a computer. Instead, Lang discloses that a user can access encrypted directories of files by inputting an encrypted security identification code that identifies the user personally. The encrypted directory is then decrypted and then re-encrypted using the user's personal security key. Lang neither discloses nor suggests decrypting a registry of encrypted data representing approved processes and then comparing the decrypted data with the process requested by the user to find a match.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that neither McGee nor Lang discloses or suggests the monitoring means recited in claims 1 and 30. The Examiner does not assert that Hiyama or Hile disclose that feature either. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 30 are not obvious in view of Hiyama, McGee, Lang and Hile.

The obviousness rejections set forth in ¶¶ 6 and 7 of the action are based on the aforementioned combination of prior art as applied to claim 1 and/or 30 in combination with a fifth reference (namely, Yamamoto or Kisor). These rejections suffer from the same infirmities as those noted above vis-à-vis the Hiyama/McGee/Lang/Hile combination. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 2, 3, 5, 10 and 33 are

patentable at least for the same reasons that claims 1 and 30, on which they depend, are patentable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-5, 8-13, and 30-36 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,
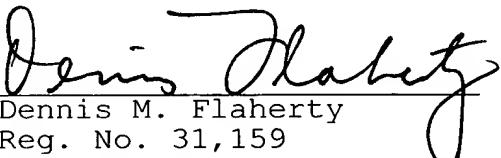
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May 30, 2006

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